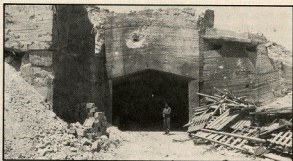


# Soviets' Secret

*When Israeli troops lashed deep into PLO strongholds in Lebanon, they uncovered secreted Soviet weaponry—enough to arm 100,000 men—and plans for a complete Middle East takeover!*

*ICA Exclusive Report*

*Photos by Richard T. Nowitz*



When the Israelis took the port city of Sidon in their recent invasion of Lebanon, they reportedly found huge caches of Communist bloc arms. The massive bunker above extended deep into the earth, and even Israeli intelligence was surprised by the quantity of PLO munitions, as indicated by the photo at left, which first appeared on the front page of the *Jerusalem Post*.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The following exclusive report was originally brought to our attention by Dr. W. Stewart McBirnie. Dr. McBirnie has for over 20 years hosted a syndicated, daily radio commentary program on world affairs called the "Voice of Americanism." International Combat Arms wishes to thank Dr. McBirnie and his staff for their assistance in helping make this report possible. A very detailed pictorial report on the subject of this story is available for \$2 by writing to Voice of Americanism, P.O. Box 90, Glendale, CA 91209.

**R**ight or wrong, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) made the mistake of continually nibbling at Israel. Terrorist attacks on military as well as civilian targets finally forced the Israeli Army to take punitive action. In June 1982 the invasion of Lebanon was launched for the purpose of crushing the PLO and within Lebanon territory. Whether this punitive

invasion was justified by world standards is a moot point.

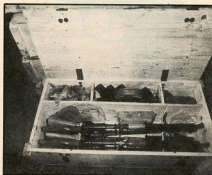
Despite the resulting confusion and controversy that rages even today, what the Israeli soldiers reportedly stumbled upon in Lebanon is nothing short of astonishing. What they discovered was one of the largest secret military bases in the world, a base that was built and stocked by the Soviet Union for their PLO allies, a base of operation, weaponry and documents that could have well altered world history as we know it.

At the time of the invasion, Mossad, Israel's highly trained intelligence organization estimated the PLO's strength at approximately 7,000 personnel. When a large cave near the Lebanese village of Saïda was opened up, the Israeli soldiers discovered a cache of arms and sophisticated weaponry extensive enough to equip an army of over 100,000 men!

The original establishment of the caves themselves was no small undertaking. The excavations contained miles of massive

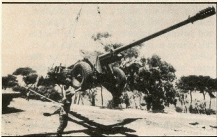
steel-reinforcing; some were large enough to shelter fleets of attack helicopters. Steel doors that shut off the ultra-secret chambers were designed to be opened only by radio signals from Soviet-based submarines off the Lebanese coast.

In one inner chamber, the Israelis found military plans for virtually every conceivable region and operation. Needless to say, all of the captured documents were in Russian. A special map section covered land areas, ports and sea bottoms of the world.



The crates of Soviet rifles captured by the Israeli Defence Forces could have supplied the PLO troops four times over!

# Invasion Plans?



The Soviets had even provided an access corridor leading directly to the sea so that key Russian advisers could leave their submarines at night and enter the base secretly. Names and records of all Soviet advisers were found in these files. In addition, documentation was found that continually referenced the date of August 4, 1982, a scant two months after the Israeli invasion took place.

Could this have been the date of a proposed Russian invasion of the Middle East? We may never know for sure. But

## SOVIET CAVE CACHE

The following is only a partial listing of the Soviet munitions and weaponry that the Israeli Army discovered in the more than 413 locations throughout Lebanon. More sites are continuing to be uncovered.

- \* 9,282,000 pounds of heavy war ammunition
- \* 28,481 Russian Kalashnikov rifles, G3 assault rifles and various machine guns
- \* 600 heavy armored vehicles
- \* 500 Russian T-55 and T-62 tanks
- \* 3,018 heavy cannon, rocket launchers, 120 mm and 160 mm mortars, anti-aircraft guns, etc.
- \* 1,486 battlefield radio communications systems
- \* 1,871 military optical systems including night vision devices
- \* SAM 6 and SAM 9 missile systems
- \* Huge stocks of radar systems, booby traps, land mines, uniforms, and general war supplies.
- \* Computer systems and a high power AM radio transmitter for a PLO propaganda station
- \* Soviet tunneling equipment to further enhance the scope of the secret bases
- \* Extensive files of PLO/Soviet military and political plans to destroy Israel

what is known is that many military analysts agree that the captured PLO documents show just how hard the Soviets were trying to turn a motley crew of terrorists into a professional, regular army that would include one armored division augmented with two hundred troop carriers and all the weapons to arm the accompanying troops.

At just one of these bases in Sidon, Lebanon, there was so much Soviet military equipment that Israeli General Meir Nitzan reported "To date we have found war materiel in quantities 10 times larger than our intelligence estimated the PLO possessed."

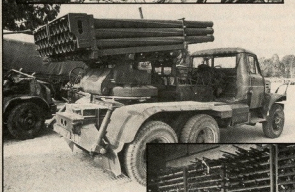
To defense analysts this indicated that August 1982 was the target month for Soviet military operation. Mossad warned Tel Aviv about the bases and the threat they represented, which resulted in Minister Be-

gin's decision to move on them before the Soviets did. In making that decision, the Israelis were forced to consider whether Moscow would try to save the PLO in Beirut. European intelligence analysts even began asking each other whether the possibility of a Soviet intervention rescue was the reason that PLO leader Yasir Arafat refused offers of safe-conduct and evacuation, even though he was cut off from all avenues of escape.

Did the "Red Threat" suffer a major setback by the swift actions of the Israeli military forces? Sources revealed to *Combat Arms* that the value of the arms seized and trucked back to Israel is over \$4 billion. Is it not unreasonable to assume that the Israelis indeed crippled a very sophisticated Soviet scheme that could well have lead to a disastrous invasion of the Middle East? You be the judge . . .



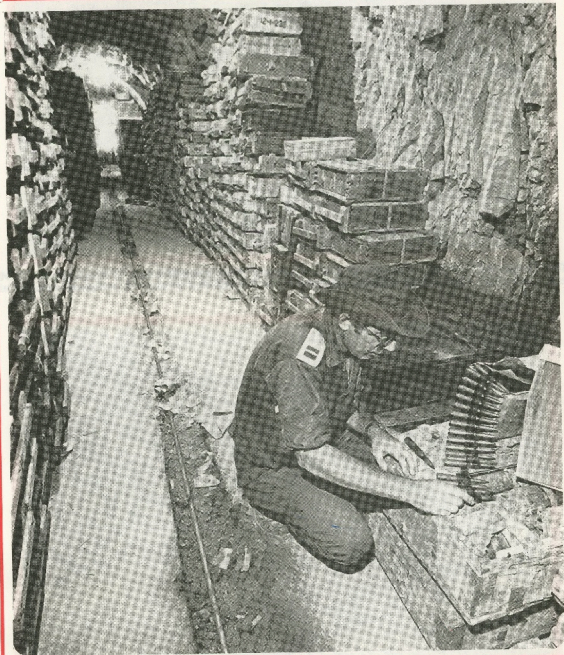
In one tunnel of a cave at Sidon, crates of arms were stacked up to the ceiling, which was almost 15 feet high. Is it possible that these vast stores of arms and other military supplies were intended, not for the PLO, but rather for a Soviet rapid deployment force, which would have ready-made supply dumps for a planned invasion of the Mideast?



An extensive range of Soviet military equipment was taken by the invading Israelis. This included the 130 mm M-46 field gun at the upper left of this page and a rocket launcher (above) actually found in the caves at Sidon. A wide variety of small arms (right) were captured by the Israelis from the PLO.



## Arafat's arsenal



While most of the media around the world chose to ignore the massive Soviet caches of arms in the Lebanese caves, *The Jerusalem Post* gave a full front page to a photo on July 2, 1982 of these enormous military supplies.